(b) The Prices details of sale are given below:

Rate per Quintal (In Rupees)

Commodity	1.1.2000 to 31.3.2000	1.4.2000 to 10.7.2000	11.7.2000 to 31.7.2000	9/11.8.2000 to onwards
Wheat (Open Market Sale Scheme Domestic)				
North Zone	688/-	900/-	700/-*	650/-
South Zone	705/-	900/-		743/-
West Zone	697/-	900/-		724/-@
East/N.E. Zone	699/-	900/-		736/-

NOTE: (*) Only for Punjab region
@ Rs. 650/- for Madhya Pradesh including Chhatisgarh State.

C&D category &
Lustre loss wheat: Rs. 50/- less than the cost of wheat under OMSS(D) zone-wise.
Canadian Red wheat: Rs. 641/- to Rs. 700/- per qtl.

Paddy: The stocks have been liquidated at Rs. 401/- to Rs. 590/- per qtl. varying from region to region and lot to lot.

Savings due to increase in prices under PDS

138. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount proposed to be saved by Government by increasing the prices both of BPL and APL categories under PDS;

(b) the actual savings till 1st January, 2001 on this account; and

(c) the additional amount spent by Government due to excess stocks during the period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (c) The quantum of food

subsidy depends on the level of procurement of foodgrains, off-take under TPDS and various schemes involving subsidy. Both procurement and off-take are determined by the market prices prevailing in respect of agricultural commodities. There has been increase in procurement and reduction in off-take of foodgrains in 2000-2001, which are expected to contribute to a significant increase in buffer subsidy which is a constituent of food subsidy. The exact amount will be known after the close of financial year 2000-2001.

Poor functioning of Consumer Fora

139. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently the Supreme Court of India has commented on the poor functioning of the Consumer Fora constituted under the Consumer Protection Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Court has also directed the State Governments to take urgent steps so as to activate these Fora and make them functional as consumer friendly; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (d) In its recent interim observation in connection with a matter relating to the State of Uttar Pradesh, the Hon'ble Supreme Court noted the difficulties stated to have been experienced in the functioning of consumer forums set up under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 and asked the State Government to inform, in the next date of hearing, the steps taken by the State Government in this regard.